

For additional information, call:



Or check out the following websites:

For frequently asked questions and answers on Hepatitis C and the national Hepatitis C prevention strategy:

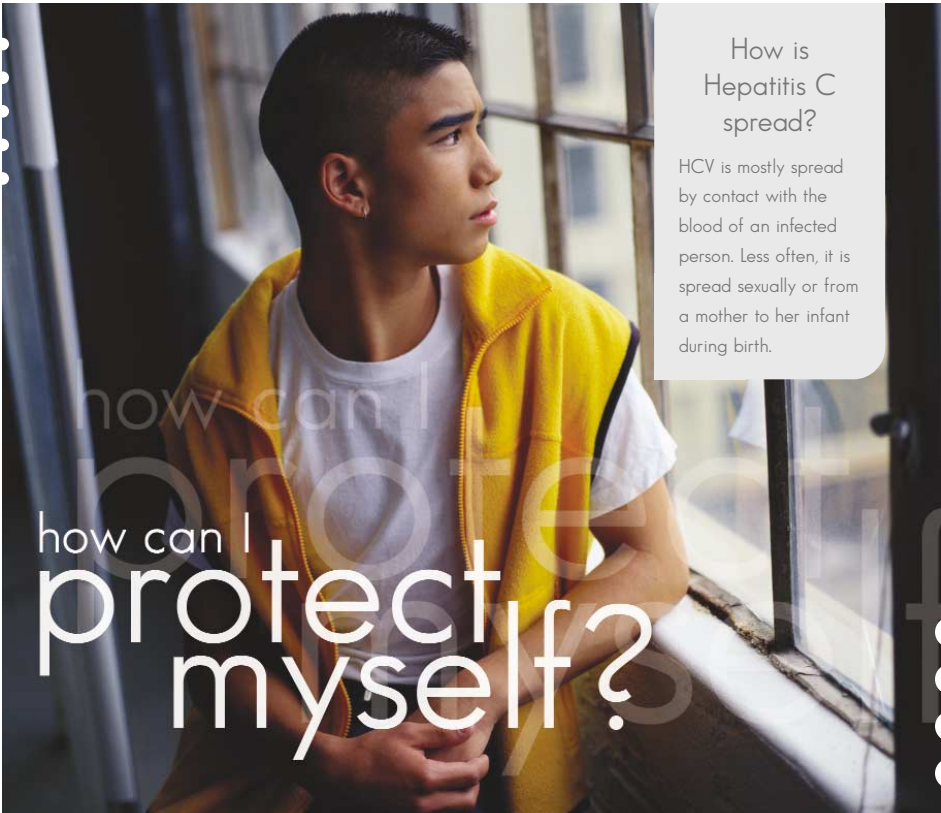
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/index.htm)

For information on Hepatitis C disease management:

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases  
[www.niddk.nih.gov/health/digest/pubs/chrnhepc/chrnhepc.htm](http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health/digest/pubs/chrnhepc/chrnhepc.htm)

For information on reducing the risks associated with substance use: [www.harmreduction.org](http://www.harmreduction.org)

For information on Hepatitis C, call 800-334-2437

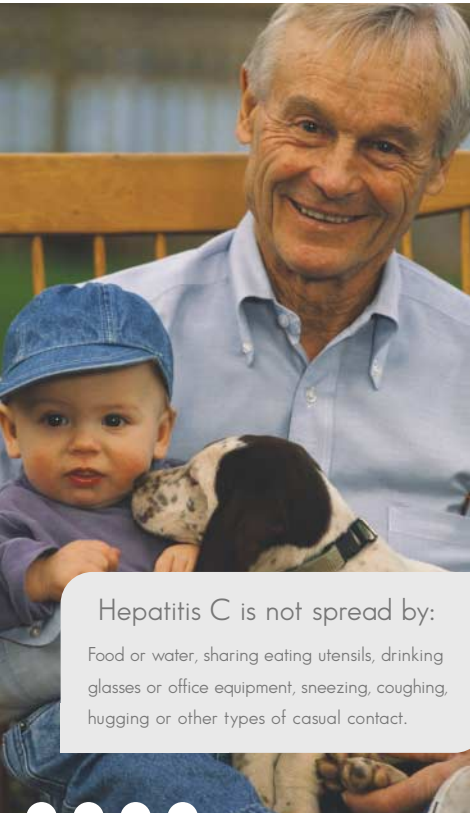


### How is Hepatitis C spread?

HCV is mostly spread by contact with the blood of an infected person. Less often, it is spread sexually or from a mother to her infant during birth.

### How can I protect myself from Hepatitis C?

- Avoid contact with blood.
- If you get a tattoo or a body piercing, be sure it is from a licensed vendor who uses sterile inks and needles.
- Don't use illegal drugs, especially injected drugs. If you do, get help from a treatment program.
- If you can't stop using illegal drugs, never reuse or share syringes, needles, or other drug related equipment such as cookers, cotton, water, rinse containers, or straws.
- Don't share toothbrushes, razors or other personal care articles that might have blood on them.
- To reduce the low risk of getting HCV through sex, use latex condoms.



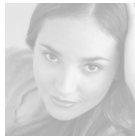
### Hepatitis C is not spread by:

Food or water, sharing eating utensils, drinking glasses or office equipment, sneezing, coughing, hugging or other types of casual contact.



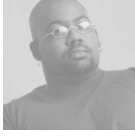
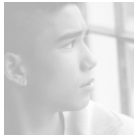
Find out about Hepatitis C and your risk

### What is Hepatitis C?

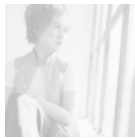
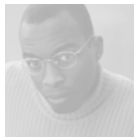


Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). HCV is found in the blood of people who have this disease. It is the most common bloodborne infection in the United States. An estimated 3.9 million people in the United States, 90,000 of whom live in Wisconsin, are estimated to have this infection.

### How serious is Hepatitis C infection?



Of every 10 people who get Hepatitis C, eight will carry the virus for the rest of their lives. Most will have some liver damage, but few show signs of illness until many years later. One out of five who carry HCV may eventually develop cirrhosis (scarring of the liver).



### Are you at risk for Hepatitis C?

You may be at risk if:

- You ever injected illegal drugs, even once or a few times many years ago
- You have shared needles for tattooing or piercing
- You were treated for clotting problems with a blood product made before 1987
- You received a blood transfusion or solid organ transplant before July 1992
- You were ever on long-term kidney dialysis
- A sex partner has Hepatitis C
- Your mother had Hepatitis C before you were born
- You have HIV

If you think you might be at risk, ask your health care provider for a Hepatitis C blood test.

### Why should I be tested for Hepatitis C?

By knowing you have Hepatitis C you can:

- Learn how to stay healthy
- Learn how to protect others from HCV
- Get Hepatitis A and B vaccines
- Get checked for liver disease
- Get treatment if you need it. Drugs are approved for the treatment of ongoing Hepatitis C infection. However, the drugs are not for everyone and do not work for everyone.

